

NEW SOUTH WALESDIGEST OF CURRENT STATISTICS.PageGENERAL.

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GENERAL - New South Wales

After the downward trend evident earlier in the year the labour demand showed signs of recovery from September onward. Factory activity seemed to be well maintained in the base metal and metal manufacturing trades but not in textiles and clothing. Home-building commencements remained steady in the June and September quarters, and wholesale and Sydney retail trade turnover improved from September on.

Drought conditions continue to rule over most of the State (and most of Australia). Water supplies are running low and pastures are deteriorating. The wheat crop will be very small, the wool clip below last year's record, and current dairy output is comparatively low. Wool returns are also being reduced by the fall in prices; the full-clip average for November was 20 per cent. below the 1956-57 season average.

PART 1 : EMPLOYMENT AND NON-RURAL INDUSTRIESEMPLOYMENT - New South Wales and Australia. (See also graph p.139.).

(The data in this section exclude defence forces and national servicemen; except for the C.E.S. series and unemployment beneficiaries they also exclude rural workers and women in private domestic service).

New South Wales employment, after a fall from 1,095,600 in March 1957 to 1,088,600 in August recovered to 1,093,200 in September, and indicators for October and November shown overleaf point to a further slow improvement in those months. A similar recovery in September was evident also in most of the other States. Employment by Government authorities remained fairly steady throughout the first nine months of 1957 but private employment in September was still 3,000 below the March peak and only $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. more than a year earlier.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT - New South Wales

Month	Males	Females	Persons		
			Government	Private	Total
1951 - November	765,000	295,200	248,300	811,900	1,060,200
1954 - January	748,100	277,000	246,100	779,000	1,025,100
1955 - September	779,800	295,900	257,200	818,500	1,075,700
1956 - August	786,600	299,200	261,400	824,400	1,085,800
- September	786,800	300,100	259,300	827,600	1,086,900
1957 - March	791,400	304,200	260,800	834,800	1,095,600
July	788,300	302,100	262,300	828,100	1,090,400
August	785,900	302,700	261,300	827,300	1,088,600
September	788,500	304,700	261,400	831,800	1,093,200

The increase in employment during September 1957 was confined to factories, trade and the services group, and reflects at least in part seasonal influences. Employment in mining, building and construction and sea and rail transport remained well below the level of last year.

N.S.W. WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT - Thousand Persons

	Two Years ended June 1953		1955	1956	1957		
	Peak	Low			March	Aug.	Sept.
Coal Mines	21.7	19.6	20.0	19.0	17.8	17.0	17.1
Factories	386.9	345.5	390.2	390.9	396.8	393.6	396.3
Building & Construction	78.1	61.8	74.9	79.1	78.5	76.1	75.7
Road Transport	40.2	36.6	37.9	38.5	38.6	38.5	38.5
Shipping & Stevedoring	18.7	17.1	18.9	18.3	18.0	17.3	17.3
Rail & Air Transport	44.2	40.9	43.3	43.5	42.2	42.2	42.0
Finance & Property	36.8	35.7	39.9	42.4	44.1	44.2	44.2
Wholesale & Produce Trade	67.2	61.0	68.5	69.2	69.6	69.1	70.0
Retail Trade	101.9	88.9	96.1	94.9	95.2	95.8	96.5
Prof. & Pers'l. Services	152.9	148.4	158.6	162.1	165.3	165.0	165.7
Other recorded groups	126.5	111.8	127.4	129.0	129.5	129.8	129.9
ALL RECORDED GROUPS	1060.2	986.2	1075.7	1086.9	1095.6	1088.6	1093.2

Towards the end of the year the labour market is affected on the one hand by extra seasonal demand for staff and an increase in vacancies for young people about to leave school, and on the other hand by a slowing down in engagement of new labour by firms and public authorities prior to the holidays. The extra demand apparently kept the number of unfilled vacancies registered with Commonwealth Employment Service offices in this State in October and November 1957 (10,800) high when compared with earlier months and near to the level of the corresponding 1956 months. But at the same time the number of applicants registered for jobs, which had fallen from 24,100 in July 1957 to 22,000 in October, increased to 26,000 in November, 7600 more than in November 1956 and the highest for 4½ years. It appears that apart from seasonal slackness in the labour demand, staff reductions on the railways, construction projects and some factories have increased the difficulties of placing available labour. The number of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit in the State which had been reduced from 7900 in August 1957 to 6300 in October rose back to 7000 in November.

End of Month	Commonwealth Employment Service N.S.W. & A.C.T.						Unemployment Benefit Recipients, N.S.W.
	Registered for Placement stating to be						
	Not at Work	Seeking Job Change	Total Unplaced Applicants		Vacancies Unfilled		
	Persons		Men	Women	Persons		
1951 - August	4,300	4,300	5,700	2,900	8,600	58,900	100
1952 - December	35,700	3,000	30,800	7,900	38,700	5,900	25,100
1955 - November	5,800	4,900	5,800	4,900	10,700	25,300	600
1956 - July	12,300	4,000	9,400	6,900	16,300	11,300	3,100
- November	13,700	4,700	11,100	7,300	18,400	11,400	3,300
1957-July	19,900	4,200	15,800	8,300	24,100	7,800	7,300
September	18,200	4,200	15,000	7,400	22,400	8,900	7,200
October	17,000	5,000	14,400	7,600	22,000	10,900	6,300
November	19,200	6,800	17,000	9,000	26,000	10,800	7,000

An employment survey of larger privately-owned factories in New South Wales (undertaken by the Department of Labour and National Service and the Commonwealth Statistician) shows that after the slackness indicated by a fall from 199,000 in March 1957 to 196,100 in July, the overall total recovered to 198,600 in October and 199,800 in November, when it was 5,000 more than a year earlier and 2,300 more than two years earlier. Employment gains were most conspicuous in the basic metal and certain metal-fabricating industries including refrigerators and television, and in the motor industry, and in the aggregate they offset losses in ship and rail-car building, textile and clothing and flourmilling. Increased factory activity in October and November is also indicated by a rising number of firms reporting employment increases (25 per cent. out of the 623 firms included, as against 18 per cent. earlier in the year) and a decrease in the number of firms retrenching (11 per cent. as against up to 17 per cent.), and by an increase in the number of firms working overtime from 23% early in 1957 to 31 per cent.; this compares with 30% in November 1956 and 43 per cent. in 1955.

EMPLOYMENT IN LARGER PRIVATE FACTORIES SURVEYED - N.S.W. Thousand Persons

Industrial Group	Nov. '55	Nov. '56	March '57	July '57	Oct. '57	Nov. '57
Building Materials	15.2	14.6	14.4	14.2	14.2	14.3
Basic Materials	31.8	33.4	34.9	35.3	35.6	35.9
Transport Equipment	21.0	19.3	19.5	19.6	19.8	20.1
Other Metal Mfrs.	48.4	46.9	48.2	47.4	49.0	49.3
Chemical Products	8.9	9.3	9.4	9.4	9.7	9.7
Clothing & Textiles	29.6	29.0	28.6	28.3	28.1	28.0
Food, Drink & Tobacco	19.8	19.3	21.0	19.0	19.1	19.3
Other Industries	22.8	23.0	23.0	22.9	23.1	23.2
Total : Men	150.4	149.1	152.0	150.6	152.2	153.1
Women	47.1	45.7	47.0	45.5	46.4	46.7
Persons	197.5	194.8	199.0	196.1	198.6	199.8
Total, excl. Food, etc.	177.7	175.5	178.0	177.1	179.5	180.5

WAGES & EARNINGS - New South Wales

The basic wage in New South Wales State awards for men has been £13.10.0 a week since February 1957, except for a reduction of 2/- in the May/August period. Rises in nominal wage rates and average earnings continued but not as fast as in 1956. Average weekly earnings per male unit increased by 14/- to £19.9.0 between September quarter 1956 and 1957, as compared with rises of 19/- and £1.4.0 in the two preceding years.

WEEKLY WAGES AND EARNINGS - New South Wales - Adult Male Rates

Month of Change	Basic Wage Awards, Sydney.		Quarter	Nominal Wage Rate Index N.S.W.	Av. Weekly Earnings, Male Unit
	State	Commonwealth			
	£ per week			1937-39 = 100	£ per week
1950-Aug.	£7. 2. 0	7. 2. 0	1950 Sept.	203	10. 5. 6
1955-Aug.	12. 3. 0	12. 3. 0	1955 Sept.	333	17.16. 0
1956-Aug.	13. 3. 0	12.13. 0	1956 Sept.	354	18.15. 0
1957-Feb.	13.10. 0	12.13. 0	1957 March	360	18. 9. 0
-Aug.	13.10. 0	13. 3. 0	Sept.	364	19. 9. 0

A comparison of proportional changes in the different series over recent years shows that the rise in average earnings kept ahead of the trend in basic and award wage rates.

Percent, Increase Sept. Quarters.	BASIC WAGE	NOMINAL WAGE RATES		AVERAGE EARNINGS Male Units
		Men	Women	
1946 to 1954	143%	140%	166%	148%
1954 to 1955	-	2%	2%	7%
1955 to 1956	7%	6%	5½%	5½%
1956 to 1957	3%	3%	3%	4%

COAL PRODUCTION - New South Wales (See also graph p. 140).

New South Wales coal production so far this year has been maintained at record levels. It totalled 14m. tons for the 48 weeks ended 23rd November (corresponding to an annual rate of well over 15m. tons), as compared with 13½m. tons for the corresponding periods of 1956 and 1955. Production in 1957 on the Northern and Western fields was about the same as in 1956, and the increase was confined to the Southern mines for the expansion of steel and power output.

N.S.W. PRODUCTION Forty-Eight Weeks ended:	Underground				Open Cut	N.S.W. Total
	Northern	Southern	Western	Total	Total	
	million tons					
27/11/1954	7.9	3.1	1.5	12.5	1.3	13.8
16/11/1955	7.7	3.3	1.6	12.6	.9	13.5
24/11/1956	7.6	3.6	1.5	12.7	.8	13.5
23/11/1957 Prel.	7.7	4.1	1.5	13.3	.7	14.0

GAS & ELECTRICITY, IRON & STEEL - New South Wales (See also graph p. 140).

New South Wales production of pig iron, steel, gas and electricity has continued to expand. For the July-October period steel output rose from 769,000 tons in 1955 to 878,000 tons in 1956 and 1,047,000 tons in 1957, and electricity generation from 2216m. kWh. and 2399m.kWh. to 2606m. kWh. Gas and electricity consumption in the Sydney area rose by 4% between October 1956 and 1957.

		Year ended June			July - October		
		1939	1956	1957	1955	1956	1957
Production New South Wales							
Pig Iron	Thousand tons	1105	1777	1878	568	585	650
Ingot Steel	" "	1168	2354	2834	769	878	1047
Gas	Mill. therm	59.2	112.7	115.7	40.8	42.7	43.4
Electricity	Mill. kWh.	1948	6499	6995	2216	2399	2606
Index of Gas and Electricity Consumption - Sydney.							
1936/7 - 38/9 = 100		104	267	280	263	283	294

NEW BUILDING - New South Wales (See also graph p.140).

The value of new houses commenced in New South Wales in September quarter 1957 remained near the June quarter level; the value of approvals in October was less than in September but still greater than in October 1956. The value of other types of buildings commenced in September quarter 1957 rose markedly, and the total value of commencements in the quarter reached the record figure of £39m. which is £5m. more than in June quarter and £2m. more than in September quarter 1956. The value of new houses completed in the State fell slightly during the quarter but the total value of building completions reached the record figure of £45m.

NEW BUILDING COMMENCED IN N.S.W. - Excluding minor alterations etc.-- VALUE IN £m.

	Houses x & Flats	Shops	Offices & Banks	Hotels etc.	Other Business	Fac- tories	Educ'n.	Other Building	Total
Year 1955-56	70.7	4.7	9.8	3.3	5.0	21.5	6.4	12.0	133.4
1956-57	72.5	4.6	7.2	2.9	6.1	26.1	4.5	12.2	136.1
Quarter									
Sept. 1955	19.3	1.5	2.5	1.0	1.2	5.6	1.0	3.9	36.0
June 1956	16.5	.9	1.4	.9	1.8	6.1	1.5	3.2	32.3
Sept. 1956	17.2	1.9	1.5	.9	1.4	7.9	1.6	4.9	37.3
June 1957	20.2	1.0	1.3	.5	1.6	5.5	1.5	2.4	34.0
Sept. 1957	20.3	1.3	2.2	1.0	1.7	6.8	2.1	3.9	39.3

x Incl. new series for houses commenced.

The partial recovery in dwelling commencements in New South Wales which had been evident in the first half of 1957 was maintained in the September quarter. The total of 6,703 for that quarter was about the same as in the corresponding periods of 1955 and 1954, Government commencements being lower and private commencements higher in the 1957 period. Completions during 1957 did not keep up with commencements, and at the end of September 1957, 20127 dwellings were listed as being under construction, as compared with 18,358 a year earlier (see note to table).

NEW HOUSE AND FLAT BUILDING - N.S.W. - NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS

Quarters	COMMENCEMENTS x				COMPLETIONS			UNCOM- PLETED (a)
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1955	1956	1957	1957 x
March	7,333	5,730	5,699	5,949	6,609	6,163	5,703	18,506
June	7,086	6,197	5,590	6,751	7,611	7,107	6,002	19,248
September	6,774	6,770	5,839	6,703	7,187	5,582	5,824	20,127
December	6,429	6,326	5,782		6,688	5,841		
Year	27,622	25,023	22,910		28,095	24,693		

(a) At end of period. x Incl. new series for houses.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS

Traffic on the State railways has been declining in recent months, and the October figures were the lowest for some years. Both gross earnings and working expenses were lower in July-October 1957 than in 1956, and the net earnings on working account for that period fell from over £3m. in 1953 and 1954 and £1.7m. in 1955 and 1956 to £1.5m. in 1957.

NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

	Four Months ended October					Month of October	
	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)	Gross Earnings	Working Expenses	Net (a) Earnings	Passenger Journeys	Goods (excl. Livestock)
	Millions	Mill.tons	£ mill.	£ mill.	£ mill.	Millions	Mill. tons
1954	92.7	6.71	25.47	22.37	3.10	23.4	1.62
1955	94.6	6.49	25.57	23.88	1.69	24.6	1.52
1956	90.2	6.52	27.56	25.83	1.73	24.7	1.69
1957	87.3	6.34	26.15	24.69	1.46	21.3	1.64

(a) Excess of gross earnings over working expenses.

PART II : FINANCE AND TRADE

MAJOR PRIVATE TRADING BANKS (See also graph p. 140).

After a seasonal decline of £84 m. to £1,332m. between March and August 1957 Australian trading bank deposits recovered strongly to £1386m. in October and £1407m. in November, 1957. They were then £96m. higher than a year earlier; about half of this increase was in interest-bearing deposits which rose steadily over most of the year. Bank advances fluctuated considerably during 1957. A recovery from the low level of the early part of the year was interrupted in August and September and resumed in October and November when the total reached £772m., about the same amount as a year earlier, but the proportion of advances to deposits at 55% was less than in recent years. Special Accounts with the Central Bank have remained unchanged at £300m. since March 1957, and the banks invested most of the recent seasonal inflow of funds in Treasury bills and other Government securities.

MAJOR PRIVATE TRADING BANKS - Business within Australia.

Average of weekly figures	Deposits at Credit of Customers			Advances to Customers	Central Bank Special Accts.	Public Securities	Treasury Bills	Cash Items	Ratio to Deposits		
	At Interest	Other	Total						Ad-van-ces	Spec-ial A/c.	Cash & Secur-ities
	£ million								Per cent.		
1955-Nov.	262	1,034	1,296	823	232	110	33	65	64	18	16
1956-Oct.	287	994	1,281	780	226	125	52	64	61	17	19
-Nov.	293	1,018	1,311	771	236	136	54	65	59	18	19
1957-Mar.	313	1,103	1,416	725	283	188	92	60	51	20	24
Aug.	331	1,001	1,332	762	300	158	17	60	57	23	18
Oct.	345	1,041	1,386	766	300	163	35	63	55	22	19
Nov.	345	1,062	1,407	772	300	175	38	57	55	21	19

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS - New South Wales and Australia.

After the initial expansion in 1956 the growth of the private savings banks has tended to moderate while the Commonwealth and State savings banks have latterly gained more deposits than last year. Total savings balances rose by £14.1m. to £1267m. between September and October 1957, and of this gain £5.5m. went to the Commonwealth Savings Bank, £5.3m. to the private savings banks and £3.3m. to the State Savings banks; in New South Wales out of a rise of £5.1m. to £436m. during the month £2.4m. went to the Commonwealth Savings Bank and £2.7m. to the private savings banks. The twelve months' rise in total deposits of £32.8m. in New South Wales and £82.7m. in Australia to October 1957 was a little less than in the preceding year. Since the establishment of the private savings banks, the New South Wales share in total Australian savings deposits has risen from 33½% in October 1955 to 34% in 1956 and 34½% in 1957, but the savings ratio of £120.3 per head of population remains below the Commonwealth average of £131.4.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS - New South Wales and Australia - £ million

	NEW SOUTH WALES			AUSTRALIA			
	Commonwealth Savings Bank	Other Savings Banks	All Savings Banks	Commonwealth Savings Bank	State Savings Banks	Other Savings Banks	All Savings Banks
Deposits at end of October							
1953	325.8	-	325.8	620.3	348.3	-	968.6
1954	346.7	-	346.7	666.5	369.1	-	1,035.6
1955	362.2	-	362.2	701.5	388.0	-	1,089.5
1956	363.0	40.2	403.2	711.7	396.2	76.3	1,184.2
1957	367.5	68.5	436.0	727.8	407.9	131.2	1,266.9
Increase - October to October							
1954-1955	15.5	-	15.5	35.0	18.9	-	53.9
1955-1956	.8	40.2	41.0	10.2	8.2	76.3	94.7
1956-1957	4.5	28.3	32.8	16.1	11.7	54.9	82.7

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS

Appreciable increases in the yield of Commonwealth tax reimbursements and State taxes raised Governmental revenue from £42.7m. in July-November 1956 to £48m. in 1957. Over the same period Governmental expenditure increased by £3.2m. to £56m., due to heavier debt charges and departmental appropriations. In the business undertakings railways revenue fell by £1.8m. to £31.1m. while working expenditure on that account was reduced by £1.2m. to £30.7m. The tram and bus services showed a small working surplus in the five months for the first time since 1949. Gross loan expenditure on works of £19m. in the 1957 period was a little less than in 1956.

NEW SOUTH WALES ACCOUNTS - In £millions

REVENUE	July to November			EXPENDITURE	July to November		
	1955	1956	1957		1955	1956	1957
Tax Reimbursements	20.5	21.9	23.6	Net Debt Charges	11.3	12.5	14.5
State Taxation	9.8	11.2	14.3	Other, excl. above			
Other Governmental	9.3	9.6	10.1	Governmental	37.0	40.3	41.5
Total Govtl.	39.6	42.7	48.0	Total above	48.3	52.8	56.0
Railways	31.7	32.9	31.1	Railways	28.5	31.9	30.7
Tram & Bus Service	4.8	5.7	5.8	Tram & Bus Service	5.4	5.7	5.6
Sydney Harbour	1.3	1.3	1.2	Sydney Harbour	.8	.8	.9
Total Business	37.8	39.9	38.1	Total Business	34.7	38.4	37.2
Total Revenue	77.4	82.6	86.1	Total Expenditure	83.0	91.2	93.2
GROSS LOAN EXPENDITURE ON WORKS & SERVICES					11.8	19.7	19.0

LIFE ASSURANCE - New South Wales

Expansion in new life assurance business in New South Wales continued and the value of new policies issued reached the record figure of £43¹/₂m. in September quarter 1957, or about £7m. more than in the corresponding quarters of 1956 and 1955. The number of new ordinary policies issued, 34,700, was also relatively high and has been exceeded only once, two years ago. The amount of new loans granted by insurance companies, mostly on the security of mortgages, totalled £5.3m. in September quarter 1957, the lowest since early 1955.

LIFE ASSURANCE - NEW BUSINESS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Period	Ordinary Dept.		Industrial Dept.		Total Sum Assured on New Policies	New Loans granted
	No. of Policies	Sum Assured	No. of Policies	Sum Assured		
	'000	£mill.	'000	£mill.	£mill.	£mill.
Year 1955-56	123.4	114.8	86.3	13.5	128.3	24.3
1956-57	109.0	129.1	85.0	13.5	142.6	25.1
Sept. Quarter						
1955	39.2	33.1	24.5	3.8	36.9	5.6
1956	30.1	32.0	26.8	4.3	36.3	5.9
1957	34.7	39.3	26.2	4.2	43.5	5.3

SYDNEY STOCK EXCHANGE

Following on the decline in September and early October share prices in Sydney steadied again and recovered some of the lost ground in November. The recovery shows up in small gains in the series for industrial, retail and pastoral companies during the month, which however left share prices still below the level reached in September quarter. The series for active shares which had gradually risen from 293 in June 1956 to 345 in September 1957 was at 331 in October and 336 in November.

INDEX OF SHARE PRICES - SYDNEY - (Compiled by N.S.W. Govt. Statistician)

	Manufacturing & Distributing	Retail	Pastoral & Finance	Insurance	Total 75 x Companies	34 Active Shares
Par Value = 100						
1957-March	434	363	265	690	314	316
September	462	372	293	768	341	345
October	444	364	276	744	328	331
November	447	368	279	737	327	336
Index - Year 1947 = 100						
1951 - Peak	161	128	182	202	143	134
1956 - Low	121	117	138	144	115	109
1957 - Sept.	140	120	172	197	133	128
- Oct.	135	117	162	161	128	123
- Nov.	136	119	164	189	128	125

x Including other series.

WHOLESALE TRADE - New South Wales

Wholesale trade turnovers in New South Wales (as indicated by sales tax returns) showed a seasonal rise from £280m. in June quarter 1957 to £291m. in September quarter, in contrast to the decrease between those quarters of 1956. During the first three quarters of 1957 trade turnovers showed a general recovery over 1956 but there has been no quickening in expansion and compared with 1955 the 1957 figures were 12% higher in March quarter, 11% in June quarter and 8% in September quarter.

WHOLESALE SALES, Taxable & Exempt Goods, N.S.W. (Traders reg'd. under Sales Tax Acts)									
	TOTAL SALES				CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS YEAR				
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	£ million				Percent. Rise (Fall-)				
March Qtr.	207.0	234.5	239.5	261.9	-3%	15%	13%	2%	9%
June Qtr.	226.0	253.0	275.4	280.4	-4%	20%	12%	9%	2%
Sept. Qtr.	226.9	268.7	268.4	291.0	15%	12%	18%	-	8%
Dec. Qtr.	240.6	263.8	269.0		17%	12%	10%	2%	
Year	900.5	1020.0	1043.3		6%	14%	13%	3%	

RETAIL TRADE - Large Sydney Stores

After lagging in the first half of 1957, turnover of large Sydney stores in September quarter and October were a little higher than in 1956. However, the aggregate turnover for the ten months ended October 1957 did not significantly exceed the corresponding 1956 and 1955 figures although prices have continued to rise. Departmental details for the nine months ended September 1957 indicate that a decline of up to 5% (as against 1956) in sales of clothing, in particular men's wear, hosiery and drapery, and of piece goods was balanced by increased sales of hardware, television and other electrical goods. The value of stock carried by the stores at the end of October 1957 was 3% less than in 1956 and 1955. This decline applied to all the main departments excepting boots and shoes and musical instruments (incl. television). After a relative decline in staff numbers from May 1956 onward, the total rose to about 1% above the corresponding 1956 level in recent months.

LARGE SYDNEY STORES - Percentage Changes Compared with Previous Year

	VALUE OF SALES				VALUE OF STOCK (End of Period)			
	1954	1955	1956	1957	1954	1955	1956	1957
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
March Quarter	+ 7	+ 4	+ 4	-	+ 4	+12	+ 1	- 1
June Quarter	+10	+ 5	+ 1	- 2	+12	+ 9	+ 2	- 3
Sept. Quarter	+13	+ 4	- 4	+ 4	+13	+ 8	-	- 3
October	+ 4	+ 1	+ 4	+ 3	+13	+ 8	-	- 3
Ten Months	+ 9	+ 4	-	+ 1				

PART III : RURAL INDUSTRIES

THE SEASON - New South Wales (See also graph p. 139).

Drought conditions continued over the State during November and early December. Some good rainfalls were recorded early in November on the coast and in Southern districts but rainfall in all divisions was from 40% to 95% below normal for the month while temperatures were well above normal. The continuing dry weather has led to further crop failures, stock losses and deterioration of pastures in most parts of the State. Water supplies are short and bushfires caused much damage in many areas. In particular the Hunter Valley and Central and Northern inland parts of the State are suffering from drought conditions, while the position elsewhere on the Coast and in the South is less serious. Shearing and wheat harvesting in the State is nearing completion. Wheat crops seem to be yielding a little better than at first expected, but according to a recent departmental estimate the total crop will be only about 10m. bus., as compared with a post-war average of 53m. bus. Yields of other crops are also expected to be disappointing, the wool clip may be below last season's and the current level of dairy output is poor compared with that of recent years.

RAINFALL INDEX, NEW SOUTH WALES, "Normal Rainfall" - 100 for each period

	Sheep Districts					Wheat Districts				Coastal Dairying Districts			
	N	C	S	W	Total	N	C	S	Total	N	C	S	Total
1956													
Jan.-July	195	234	236	276	224	190	224	244	205	148	174	207	159
Aug.-Dec.	74	81	114	69	88	69	72	121	98	67	63	77	67
1957													
Jan.-May	82	60	56	59	67	84	61	60	64	62	75	39	63
June	54	38	80	115	64	55	34	82	66	31	28	74	36
July	65	100	147	69	102	65	115	141	125	124	94	223	129
August	90	89	79	40	81	76	101	59	72	224	242	255	233
September	10	4	31	4	15	10	6	28	20	8	22	27	14
October	46	23	47	27	35	28	15	46	35	105	18	23	72
November	20	25	55	12	32	21	30	50	41	34	25	44	33

N: Northern. C: Central. S: Southern. W: Western.

DAIRYING

The seasonal recovery from the low winter production level of dairy output has been slow, and total milk production for the four months ended October is estimated at 83.5m. gall., as compared with 90m. gall. and 97m. gall. in the corresponding periods of 1956 and 1955. The decline affected mainly butter production which was only about four-fifths of the average of recent years. Milk Board supplies and use of milk for cheese and other condensery products remained relatively high.

WHOLEMILK - PRODUCTION AND USE - NEW SOUTH WALES

WHOLEMILK - PRODUCTION AND USE - NEW SOUTH WALES							
	(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	BUTTER		CHEESE	MILK BOARD	PROCESSED	OTHER	WHOLEMILK
	Factory Output			DELIVERIES	MILK	USES	All Purposes
	m.lbs.			million gallons			
<u>Year</u>							
1954-55	87	179.8	5.6	68.6	11.6	50.1	315.7
1955-56	92	193.7	7.4	73.3	16.8	46.0	337.2
1956-57P	76	162.1	9.0	76.2	20.2	40.1	307.6
<u>July-Oct.</u>							
1955	24	50.3	1.9	24.2	5.3	15.3	97.0
1956P	21	44.2	2.3	25.2	5.1	13.4	90.2
1957P	18	36.5	2.6	25.3	5.7	13.4	83.5

- (1) Weight converted at rate of 2,075g. per lb. (2) 1 gall. equal to 1 lb.
 (3) Wholemilk delivered to Board. (4) Used for condensed, etc. milk.
 (5) Including fresh milk not sold through Board, and farm butter.
 P. Preliminary.

WOOL (See also graph p. 139).

Wool deliveries into the Sydney, Newcastle and Goulburn stores in October and November 1957 were not as heavy as last year, and the aggregate of 1.07m. bales for the five months ended November was about 11% below last year's record figure, although still higher than in earlier years. Usually between two-thirds and three-quarters of the year's total are delivered into store by the end of November. Good clearances were made at this season's sales, and the total in store at the end of November, 457,000 bales, was less than usual for this time of year. However, as the average price realised fell from 78d. per lb. greasy to 69d. the value of sales declined from £64m. in the 1956 period to £53m. in 1957.

RECEIPTS AND DISPOSAL OF WOOL - New South Wales Stores, excluding Albury.

	1954	1955	1956	1957		
	Total N.S.W.			Sydney	Newcastle & Goulburn	Total N.S.W.
	Quantity in Thousand Bales					
Carry-over from June	21	26	19	32	6	38
Receipts, July-Nov.	988	1,067	1,220	769	300	1,069
Total	1,009	1,093	1,239	801	306	1,107
Disposals, July-Nov.	510	613	669	501	149	650
Balance in Store at end of November	499	480	570	300	157	457
	Value of Sales in £million					
July-November	45.6	46.0	63.7	41.9	12.5	53.4

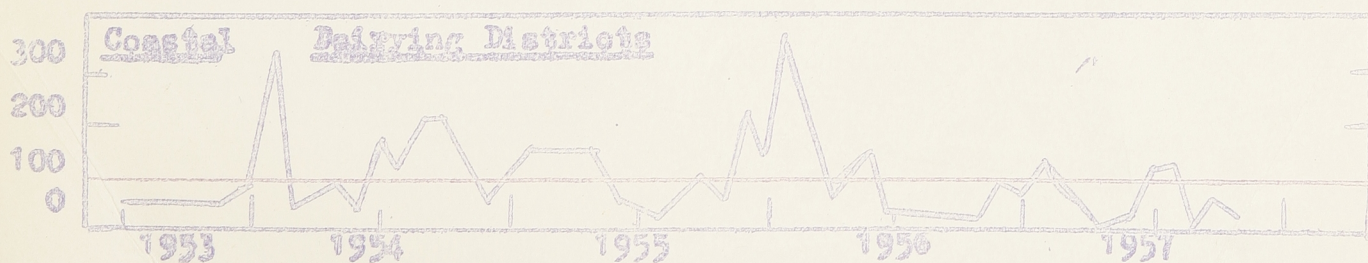
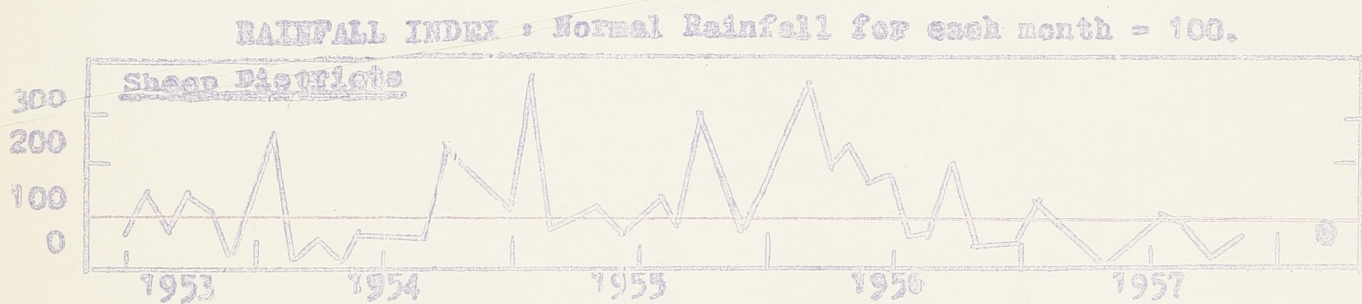
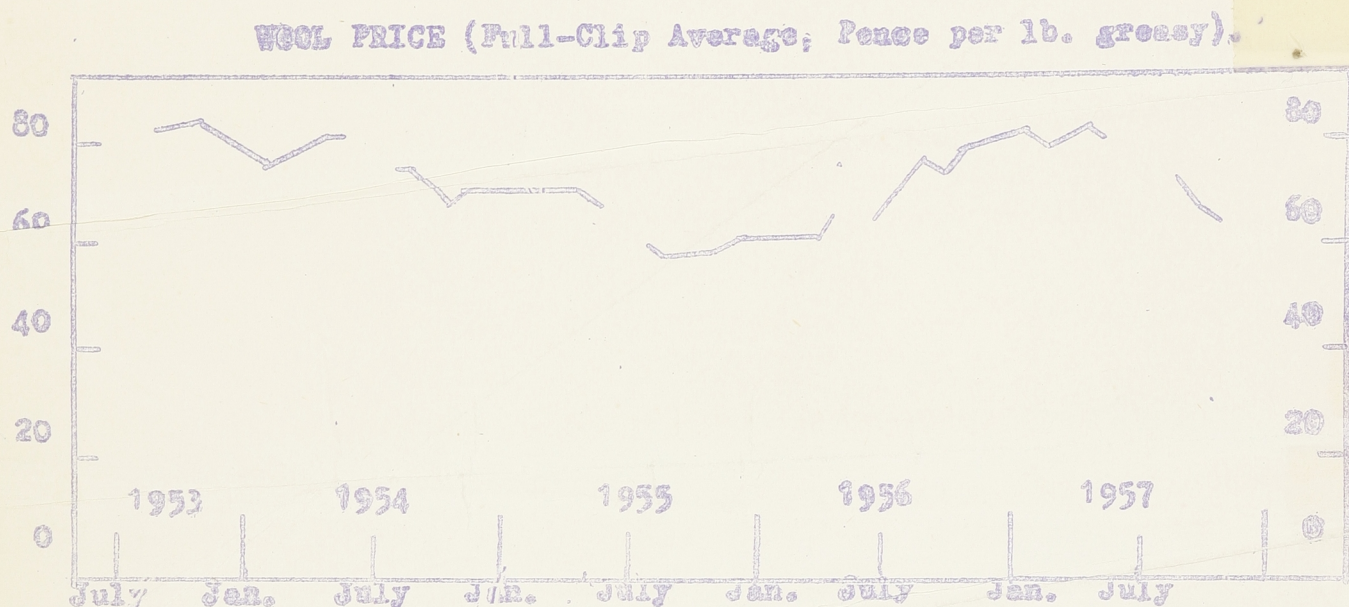
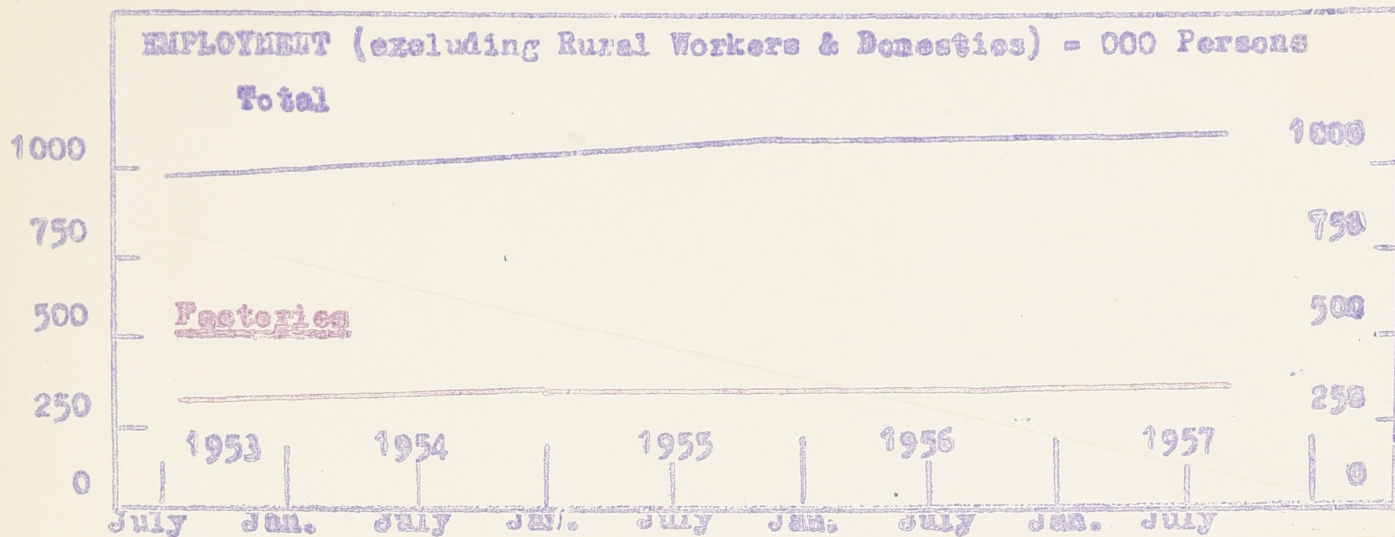
On 11th December the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers issued a revised estimate of Australian wool production for 1957-58 at 1,463m. lb. of greasy wool, which is 102m. lb. less than in 1956-57, because of lower production in New South Wales, South and Western Australia.

Bidding continued to slacken at the wool sales held in Australia during November and early December. Japan and some continental countries are reported to have been the most active buyers so far this season while British and Australian mills seem to have been operating less freely than usual. Prices at the end of November were from 24% (for fine combing wools) to 12% (for coarser types) below the level reached at the end of the 1956-57 season. The full-clip average for wool fell from 80½d. per lb. in 1956-57 to 72d. in September, 66d. in October and 64d. in November 1957.

AVERAGE PRICE OF GREASY WOOL - NEW SOUTH WALES - Pence per lb. Greasy

Season ended 30th June	d. per lb.	Month (a)	1953-54	1955-56	1956-57	1957
			Pence per lb.			
1951	145.3					
1952	76.5	September	83.0	58.0	75.0	72.0
1953	85.1	October	84.0	58.0	73.0	66.0 P.
1954	81.8	November	84.0	58.0	77.0	64.0 P.
1955	70.6	February	77.0	61.0	81.0	
1956	61.6	May	82.0	66.0	83.0	
1957	80.5	June	82.5	67.0 ø	79.0	

(a) Average that would be realised if whole clip were sold at price level of the month named. ø Nominal. P. Preliminary.



Series start in July, 1953, and go up to November, 1957.